

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Red Academy (Vörös Akadémia)

1. The Red Academy, established in 1949, was located in the former Stock Exchange Building (Tőzsdepalota) in Budapest V. The purpose of the Academy was to train new technical and supervisory personnel selected from the workers' cadres in Hungarian industrial enterprises to replace older, politically unreliable personnel in the enterprises. Because of the shortage of technical personnel, many old regime technicians, engineers and foremen were being retained in their jobs at a nominal salary without a chance of promotion until new personnel could be trained.
2. All students for the Red Academy were carefully selected on the basis of first, Party loyalty; second, social origin; and, third, talent, in that order. A candidate had to be of peasant or workers' origin to qualify for the training. The background of most of the selected students included no more than four to six years of elementary schooling.
3. The first two-year course began in the fall of 1949, with an enrollment of about 1,000 workers selected from various enterprises. This first class completed the two-year course in the Spring of 1951, instead of in the fall as planned, because of the pressing need for technical personnel. The next two-year course began in the Spring of 1951 and will end in the Spring of 1953. Classes lasted each day from 0800 hours to 1800 hours, with a two-hour lunch and rest period at noon.

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- 25X1X 4. Instructors at the Red Academy were high officials in various ministries --- many of them old regime technicians and engineers. [redacted] Dr. Janos Fay, who worked until the beginning of 1951 in the Planning Department of the Machine Industry Division of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry. Dr. Fay was not of workers' origin, but he was one of the best planning experts in the country and one of the most successful instructors. He was about 34, of medium height, slender, with chestnut hair. He wore glasses.
5. General subjects taught at the Academy, in addition to Marxism, were: mathematics, algebra, geometry, geography, physics, chemistry, economics, factory administration, accounting and bookkeeping. In addition, students were obliged to study Russian and one other elective foreign language --- German, English, French, or Spanish.
6. The students were divided into groups specializing in some branch of industry. Instruction in the specialized branch was intensive. Specialization could be in machine industry, consumer goods industry, tool industry, iron metallurgy, telecommunications, high tension power industry, food products industry, leather industry, textile industry, and special attention was paid to students specializing in accounting and chemistry by business organizations and chemical industry enterprises. The students knew where they would be placed upon successful completion of the course. Thus, candidates sent, for instance, by the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry belonged to special groups training for jobs in various branches of industry under that Ministry, such as consumer goods, machine industry, transportation industry, telecommunications, tool industry, etc. The student who specialized in telecommunications underwent intensive training in that particular field, while he was instructed in only the most salient points in other subjects of possible use to him in his position as manager of an enterprise. Other students were intensively trained for executive jobs in the Ministry, e.g. in planning or investment departments, etc.
- 25X1X 7. [redacted] Karoly Homola, a former worker in the Granite Grinding Stone and Flintware Factory (Granit Csiszolokorong-, es Koeedenygyar), who later became chief of the Materials and Goods Distribution Department in the Iron Metallurgy Division of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry. Homola was sent by the Ministry to the Red Academy for training in foreign trade. Upon the successful completion of the two-year Academy training, he will be eligible for an executive post in one of the State foreign trade enterprises. Homola was about 37, tall, somewhat bent, slender, narrow faced, with dark hair and eyes. He was intelligent, quiet and decent. He was a Communist.

Evening Technical Universities

8. Simultaneously with the opening of the Red Academy in 1949, the following evening schools were started for training technicians from among selected workers to replace old-time personnel in supervisory jobs and to help train engineers in accordance with the Five Year Plan:
- Metallurgical Evening Technical University, Miskolc /4806N-2047E/.
 - Evening Technical Textile University, Szeged.
 - Evening Technical University (Esti Mueszaki Egyetem) with branches in Metal Technology, Chemistry, and Agriculture, in Budapest.

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- 25X1X 9. At the Evening Technical University in Budapest the first course in 1949 was supposed to last for six months. However, it was soon apparent that 90% of the students, because of their sketchy elementary education, would not be able to make the grade in that time. The subjects included mathematics, physics, and chemistry. In 1950 the term was extended to one year, but it proved too strenuous even then for students attending school after a day's work to try to cover in one year subjects which ordinarily took eight years to learn. [REDACTED] 25X1X
[REDACTED] Fall of 1952 the length of the course was to be extended to two years. The hours of instruction were from 1500 hours to 2000 hours every day except Saturdays and Sundays, a total of 25 hours a week.
- 25X1X 10. [REDACTED] faculty at the Budapest Evening Technical University --- a professor named (fnu) KUNCZ who taught descriptive geometry. In 1951 there was a purge of instructors in that institution.

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